

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

200031Z Sep 01

2001HOCHI01082 - UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DS-00	EB-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PM-00	P-00
	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W				

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FM AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5540
INFO AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA
ASEAN COLLECTIVE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
JICPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS HO CHI MINH CITY 001082

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/BCLTV AND EAP/PD/JMARTIN
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR DRL/IRF
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR USTR
CINCPAC FOR FPA
SECDEF FOR ISA/EA/LSTERN
UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPTTREAS FOR OASIA
USDOC FOR 4431/MAC/AP/OKSA/HPPHO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM PREL VM HUMANR
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST U.S. INTERFERENCE

REF: HANOI 2307

1. A SMALL GROUP OF PEACEFUL STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS (APPROXIMATELY 35 TO 50 PERSONS) ARRIVED IN FRONT OF CONGEN AT 7:40 A.M. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, TO PROTEST RECENT CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION TARGETED AT VIETNAM. THE GROUP CARRIED SEVERAL BANNERS WITH SLOGANS SUCH AS "LONG LIVE THE VIETNAM COMMUNIST PARTY" AND "US GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE IN VIETNAM." RSO WAS ALREADY PRESENT AT CONGEN, AND LOCAL UNDERCOVER POLICE WERE NEARBY. THE DEMONSTRATORS DISBURSED AFTER ABOUT 10 MINUTES. THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO SPEAK WITH ANYONE OR PASS ANY WRITTEN DOCUMENTS TO CONGEN.

2. THE PROTEST OCCURRED JUST PRIOR TO A MEETING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE CALLED TOGETHER BY THE HCMC COMMUNIST PARTY YOUTH UNION, THE HCMC COMMUNIST YOUTH BRIGADE, AND THE HCMC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO DENOUNCE THE PASSAGE BY THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 6 OF THE VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE LIKELY ON THEIR WAY TO THAT MEETING, WHICH WAS HELD AT THE HCMC YOUTH UNION CENTER JUST THREE BLOCKS FROM CONGEN. SEVERAL PARTY
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ORGANS UNDER THE UMBRELLA FATHER LAND FRONT COMMITTEE HAVE ORGANIZED MASS MEETINGS IN THE CITY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO DENOUNCE THE ACT.

3. VIETNAMESE VERNACULAR MEDIA IN THE CITY ALSO HAS BEEN CARRYING DAILY EDITORIALS CONDEMNING THE ACT AND DENOUNCING AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN VIETNAM'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN STIRRING UP SOME ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING. THE DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR ON SEPTEMBER 13 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE STATING THAT MANY VIETNAMESE WERE PLEASED WITH THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE U.S. QUOTING ONE STUDENT AS SAYING THE ATTACKS SHOULD OPEN THE U.S.'S EYES TO THE RESULTS OF "INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS." WHILE POST HAS NOT HEARD SUCH SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED, THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES FROM THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN HCMC HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT LIMITED.

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